

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 152055 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4665

INFO CINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: ERRO CASE: CHAMBER FAILES TO VOTE IMPEACHMENT ON TWO
BALLOTS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1753

1. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, ON TIE VOTE OF 48 TO 48 THIS MORNING (JUNE 15), FAILED TO PASS MOTION TO IMPEACH " FRENTE AMPLIO" SENATOR ENRIQUE ERRO. AFTER SHORT RECESS, SECOND CHAMBER BALLOT AGAIN ENDED IN 48 TO 48 TIE. TIE VOTES ENDED GRUELING ALL- NIGHT SESSION AND CHAMBER HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THIRD BALLOT UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY, JUNE 21.

2. IN MEANTINE, MILITARY RESUMED YESTERDAY EVENING 24- HOUR SURVEILLANCE OF SENATOR ERRO, APPARENTLY IN ANTICIPATION OF DECISION TO ARREST HIM.

3. OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY, IN PRESS RELEASE TODAY, ANNOUNCED THAT EXECUTIVE IS REQUESTING JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES BY URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY RODNEY ARISMENDI THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR BOLENTINI ALLOWED RIGHTIST " THUGS"
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TO ATTACK STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS. ARISMENDI' S CHARGES RESULTED FROM A NUMBER OF CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN OPPOSED IDEOLOGICAL STUDENT GROUPS AT SECONDARY SCHOOL SITES DURING RECENT WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: TIE VOTE ON ERRO IMPEACHMENT CHARGES PARTICULARLY FRUSTRATING END TO OVER TWO MONTHS OF CONGRESSIONAL AGONIZING. CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION, PRIOR TO ANY THIRD BALLOT, LIKELY TO FOCUS ON THREE DEPUTIES WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN TODAY' S VOTES. MILITARY ALSO LIKELY TO FEEL FRUSTRATIONS OVER CONGRESSIONAL IMPASSE, WITH RENEWED POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT ARREST ERRO WITHOUT AWAITING FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATION. FINALLY, EXECUTIVE ACTION AGAINST ARISMENDI RAISES NEW CONTROVERSY INVOLVING CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITIES AS COMMUNIST LEADER IS ALSO NATIONAL DEPUTY.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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